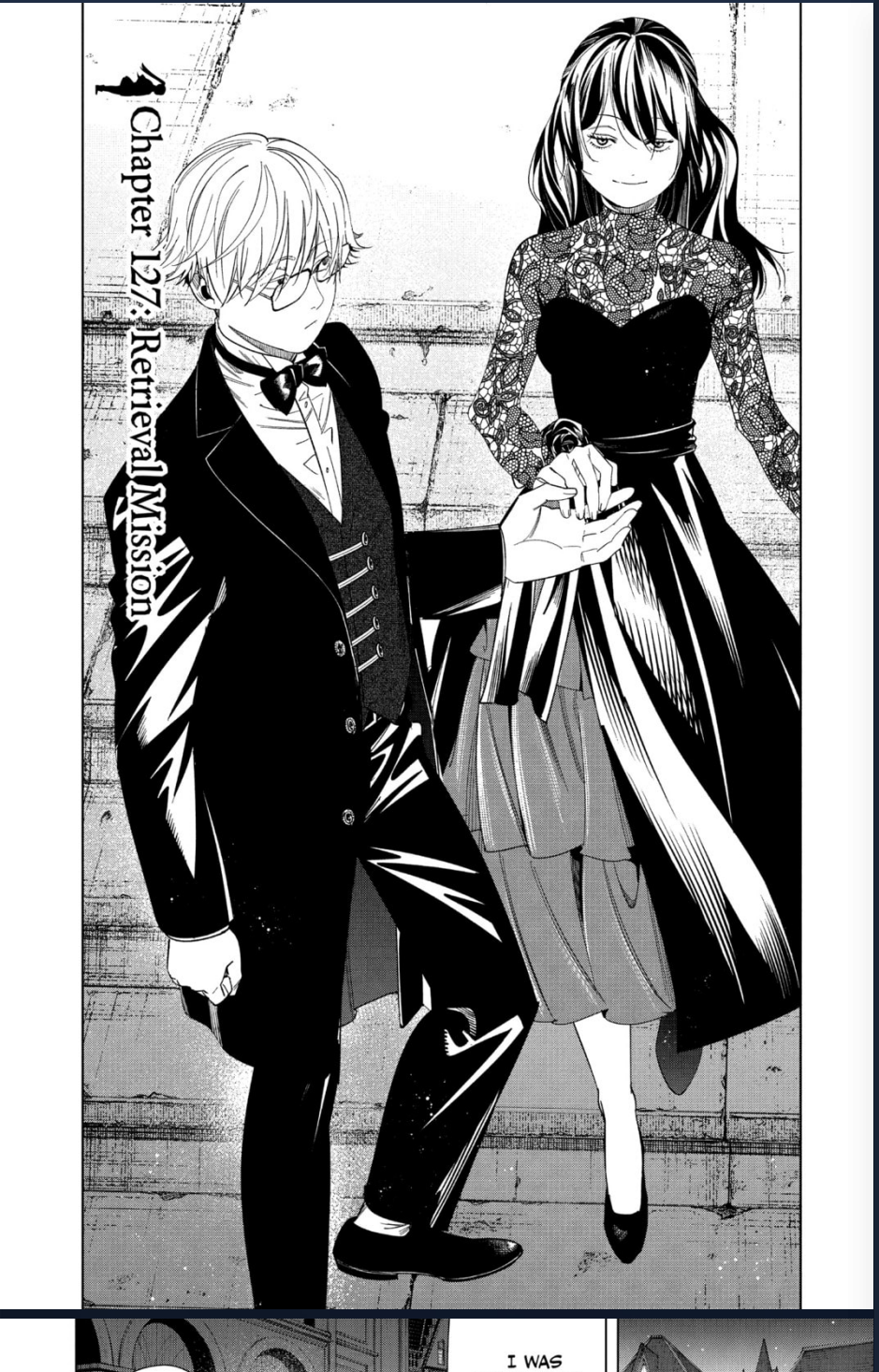
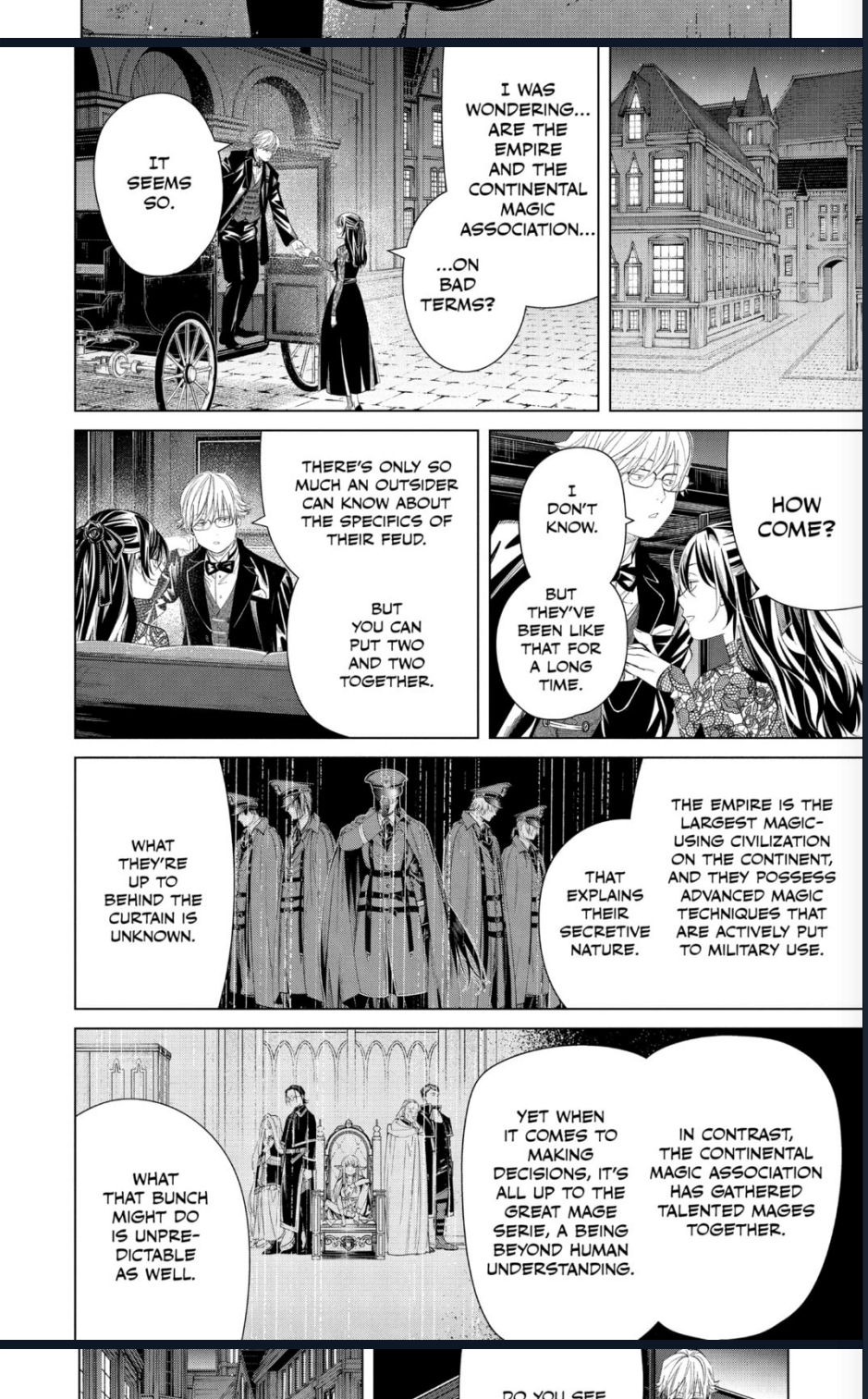
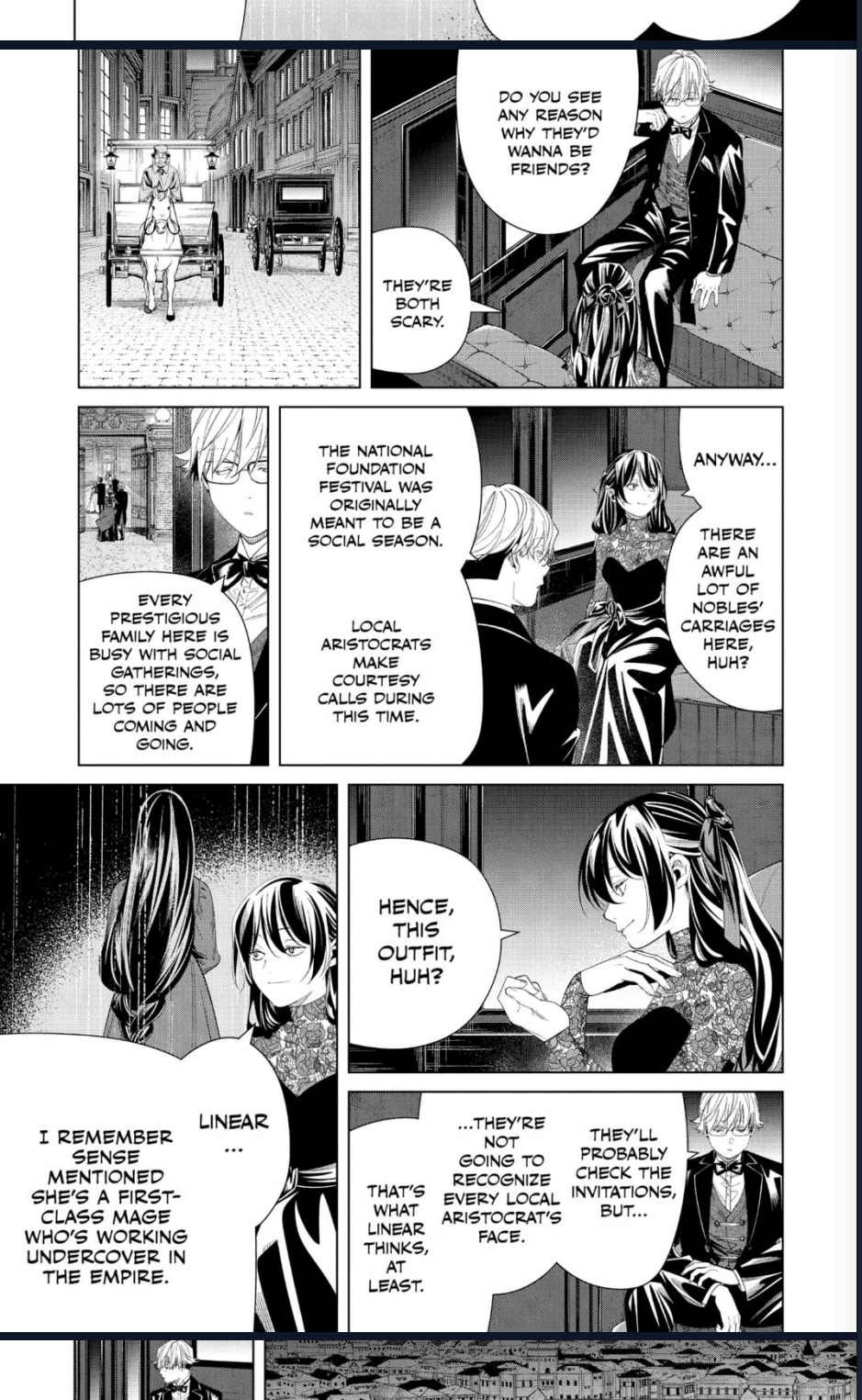
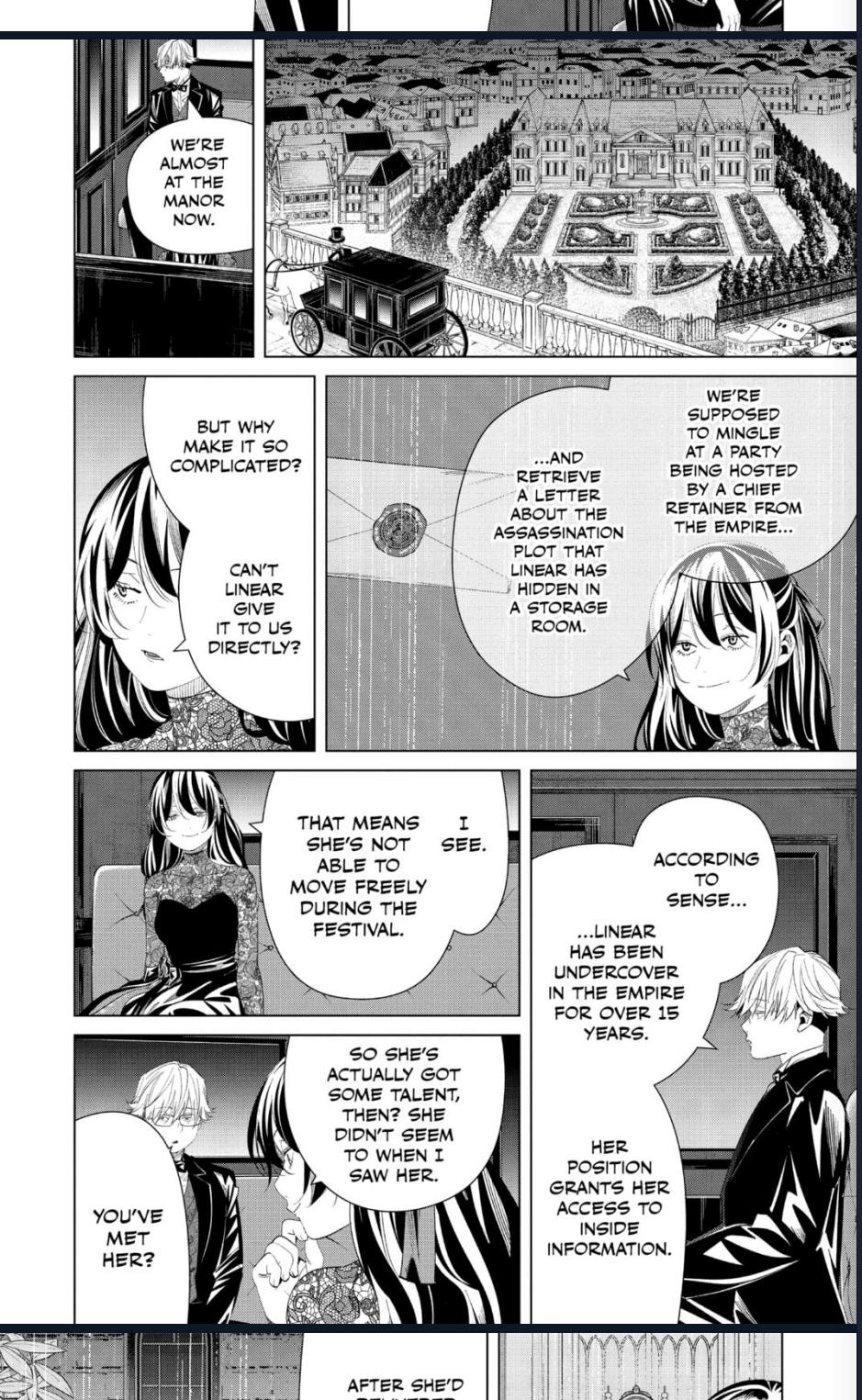
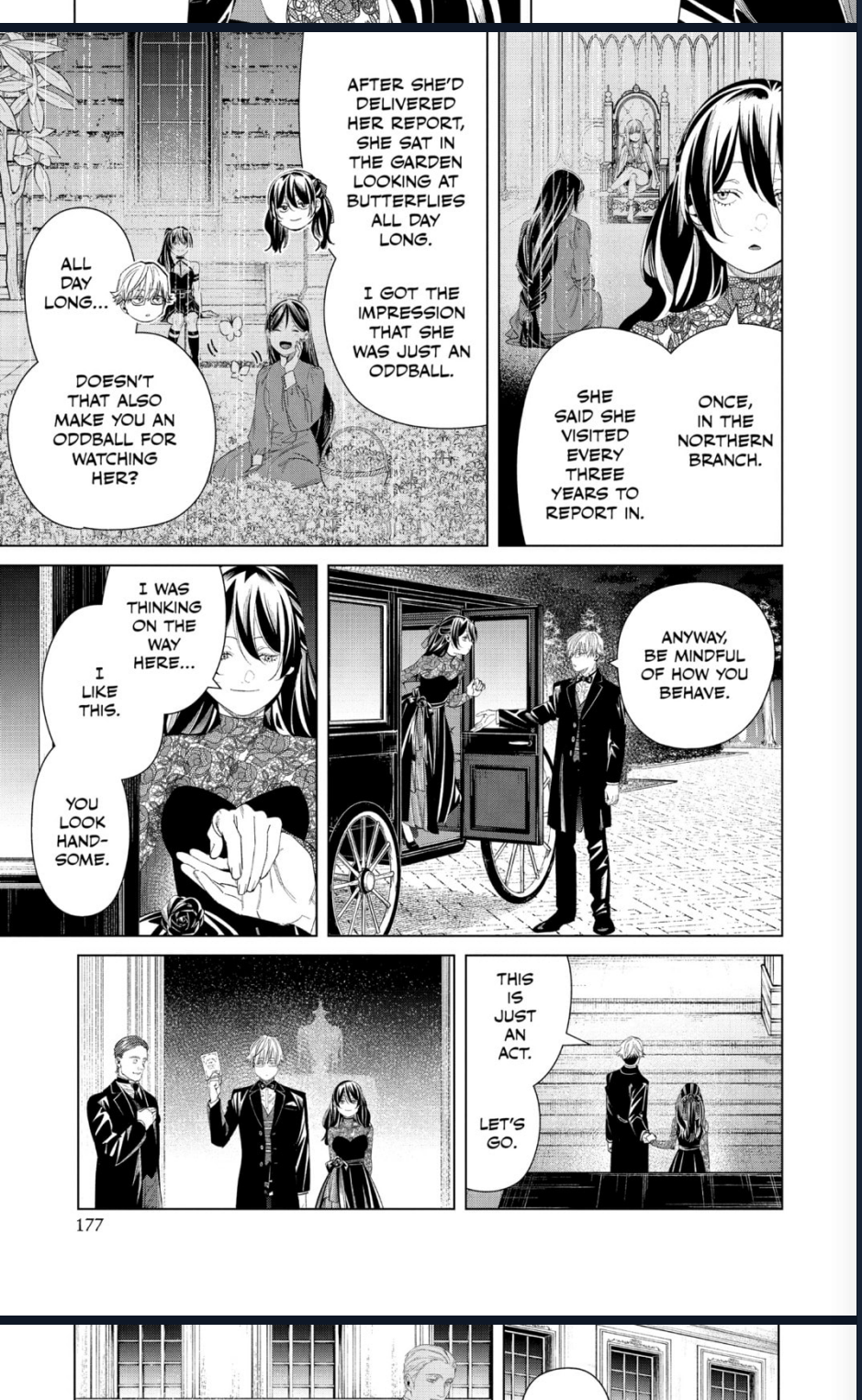
Chapter 127: Retrieval Mission




I was wondering... are the Empire and the Continental Magic Association...
...on bad terms?
It seems so.
How come?
I don't know.
But they've been like that for a long time.
There's only so much an outsider can know about the specifics of their feud.
But you can put two and two together.
The Empire is the largest magic-using civilization on the continent, and they possess advanced magic techniques that are actively put to military use.
That explains their secretive nature.
What they're up to behind the curtain is unknown.
In contrast, the Continental Magic Association has gathered talented mages together.
Yet when it comes to making decisions, it's all up to the Great Mage Serie, a being beyond human understanding.
What that bunch might do is unpredictable as well.


Do you see any reason why they'd wanna be friends?
They're both scary.
Anyway...
There are an awful lot of nobles' carriages here, huh?
The National Foundation Festival was originally meant to be a social season.
Local aristocrats make courtesy calls during this time.
Every prestigious family here is busy with social gatherings, so there are lots of people coming and going.
Hence, this outfit, huh?
They'll probably check the invitations, but...
...they're not going to recognize every local aristocrat's face.
That's what Linear thinks, at least.
Linear...
I remember Sense mentioned she's a first-class mage who's working undercover in the Empire.


We're almost at the manor now.
We're supposed to mingle at a party being hosted by a chief retainer from the Empire...
...and retrieve a letter about the assassination plot that Linear has hidden in a storage room.
But why make it so complicated?
Can't Linear give it to us directly?
According to Sense...
...Linear has been undercover in the Empire for over 15 years.
Her position grants her access to inside information.
I see.
That means she's not able to move freely during the festival.
So she's actually got some talent, then? She didn't seem to when I saw her.
You've met her?


Once, in the Northern Branch.
She said she visited every three years to report in.
After she'd delivered her report, she sat in the garden looking at butterflies all day long.
I got the impression that she was just an oddball.
All day long...
Doesn't that also make you an oddball for watching her?
Anyway, be mindful of how you behave.
I was thinking on the way here...
I like this.
You look handsome.
This is just an act.
Let's go.
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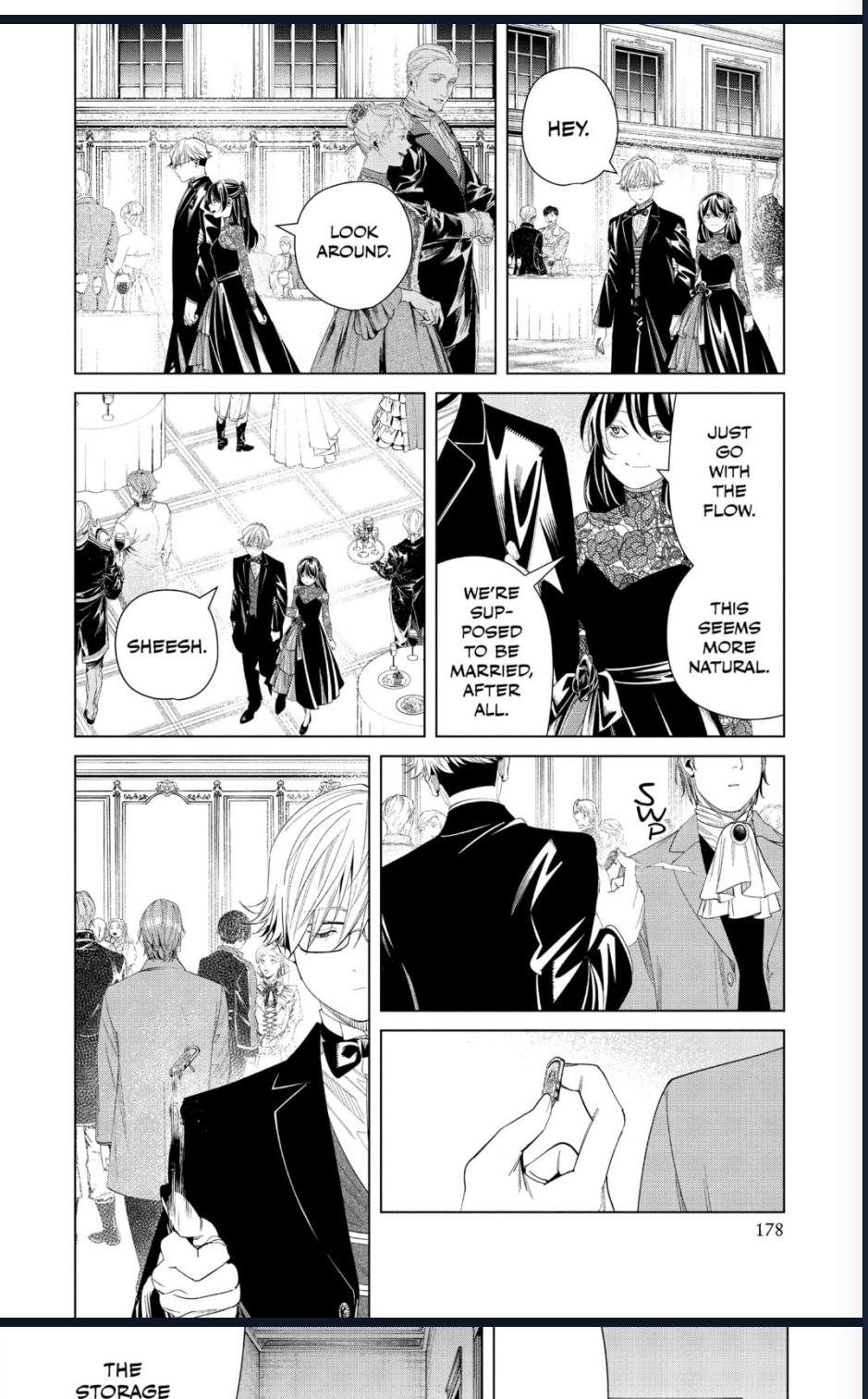
Hey.
Look around.
Just go with the flow.
This seems more natural.
We're supposed to be married, after all.
Sheesh.
SWP
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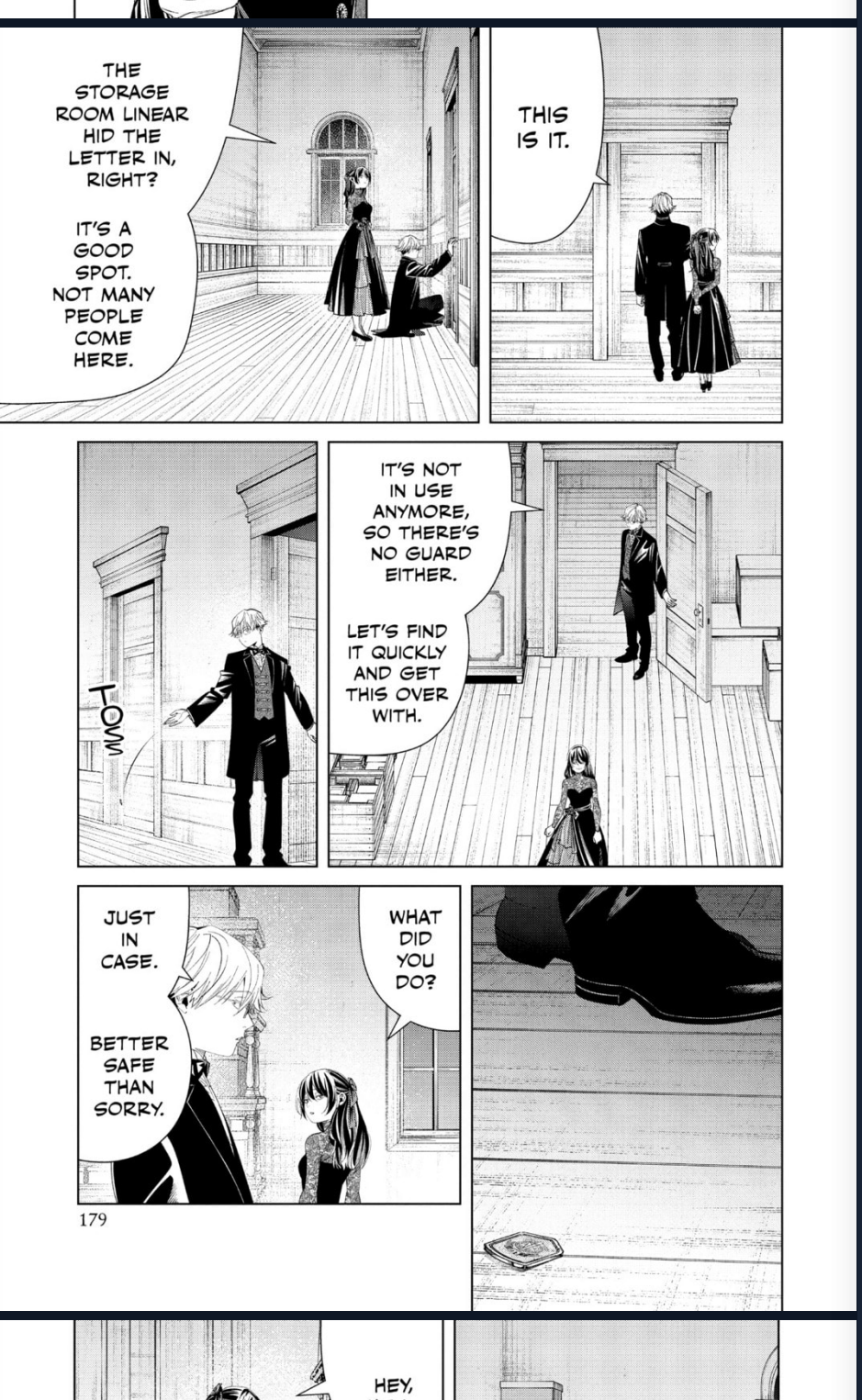
This is it.
The storage room Linear hid the letter in, right?
It's a good spot. Not many people come here.
It's not in use anymore, so there's no guard either.
Let's find it quickly and get this over with.
TOM
What did you do?
Just in case.
Better safe than sorry.
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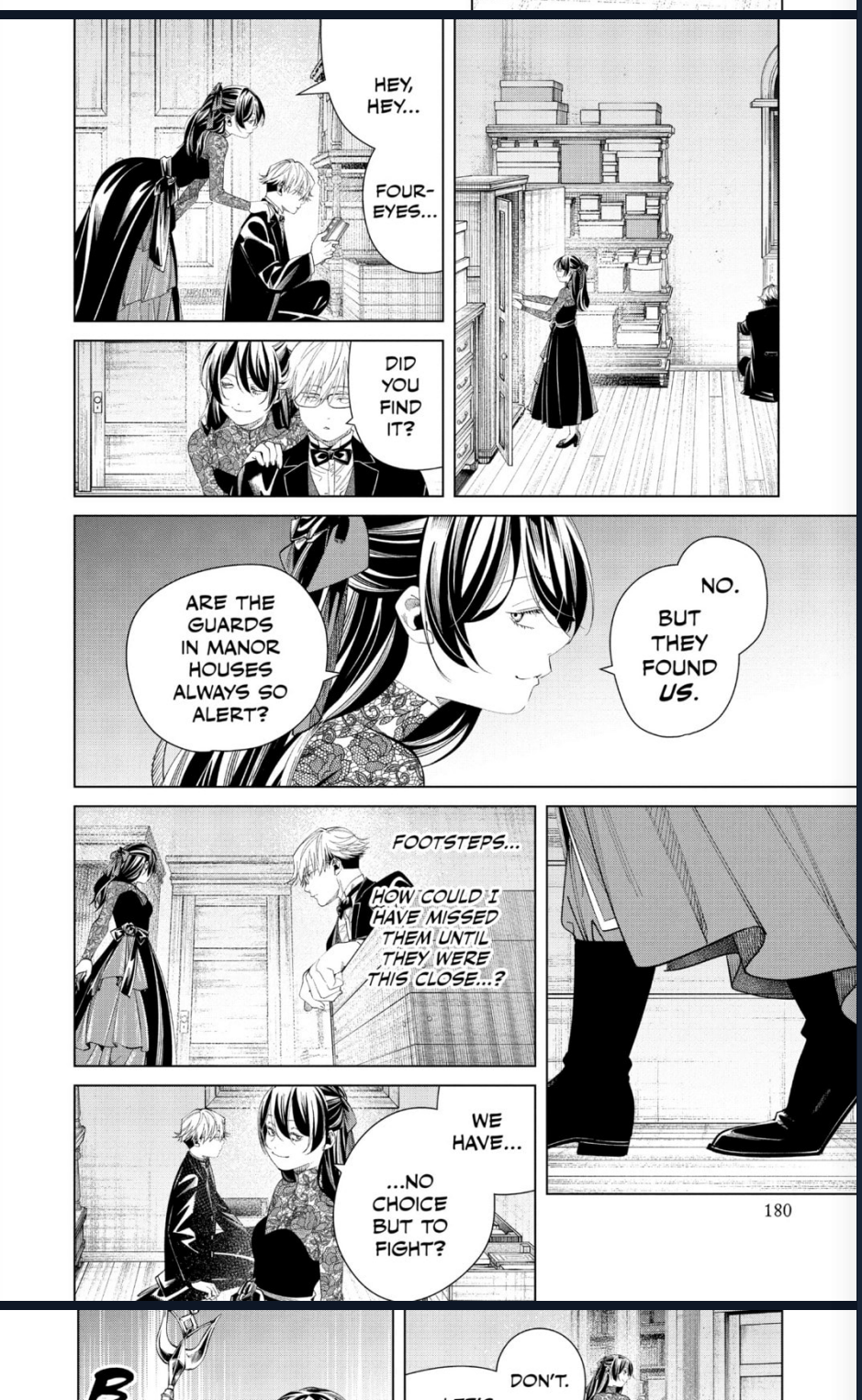
Hey, hey...
Four-eyes...
Did you find it?
No.
But they found us.
Are the guards in manor houses always so alert?
Footsteps...
How could I have missed them until they were this close...?
We have...
...no choice but to fight?
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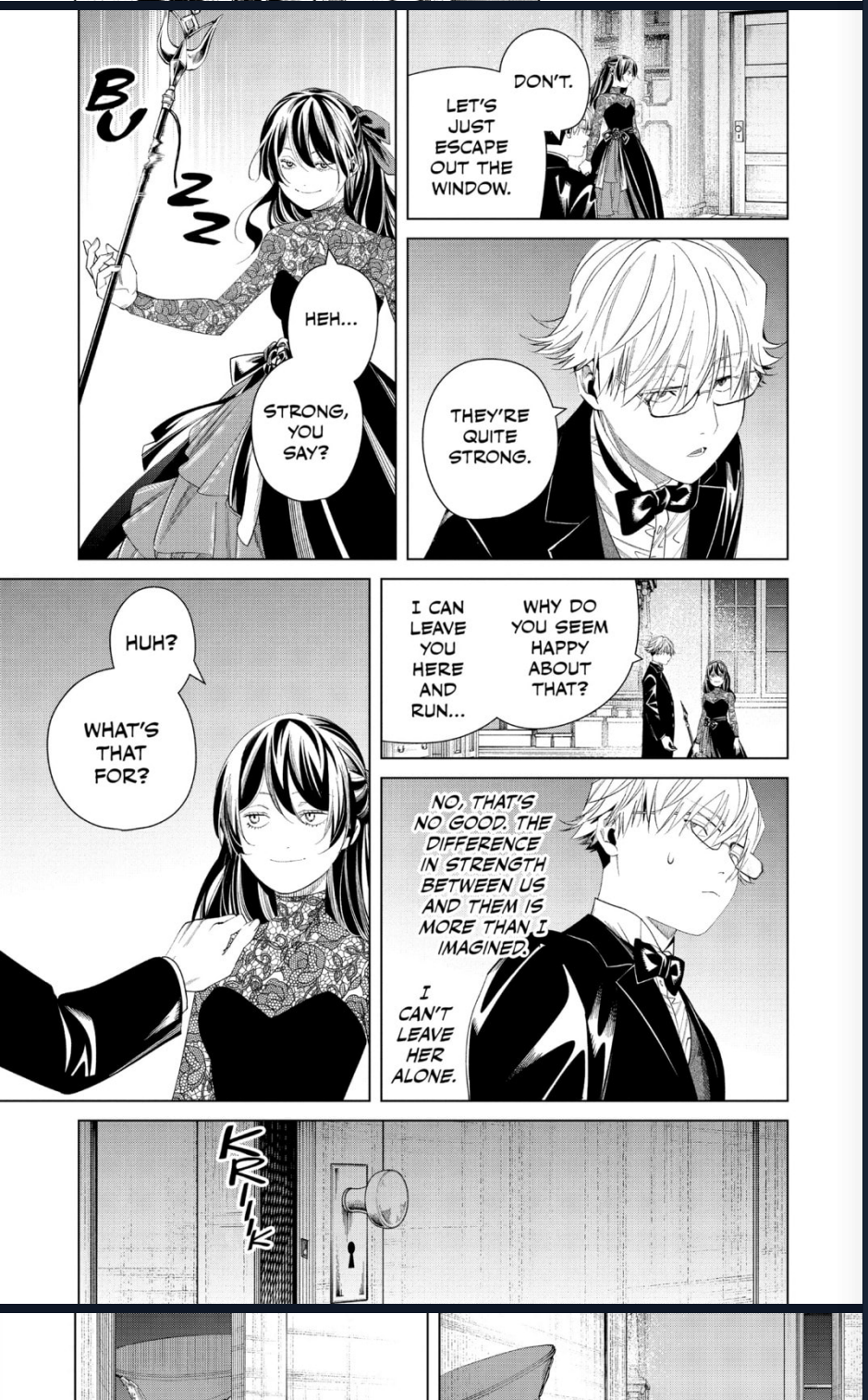
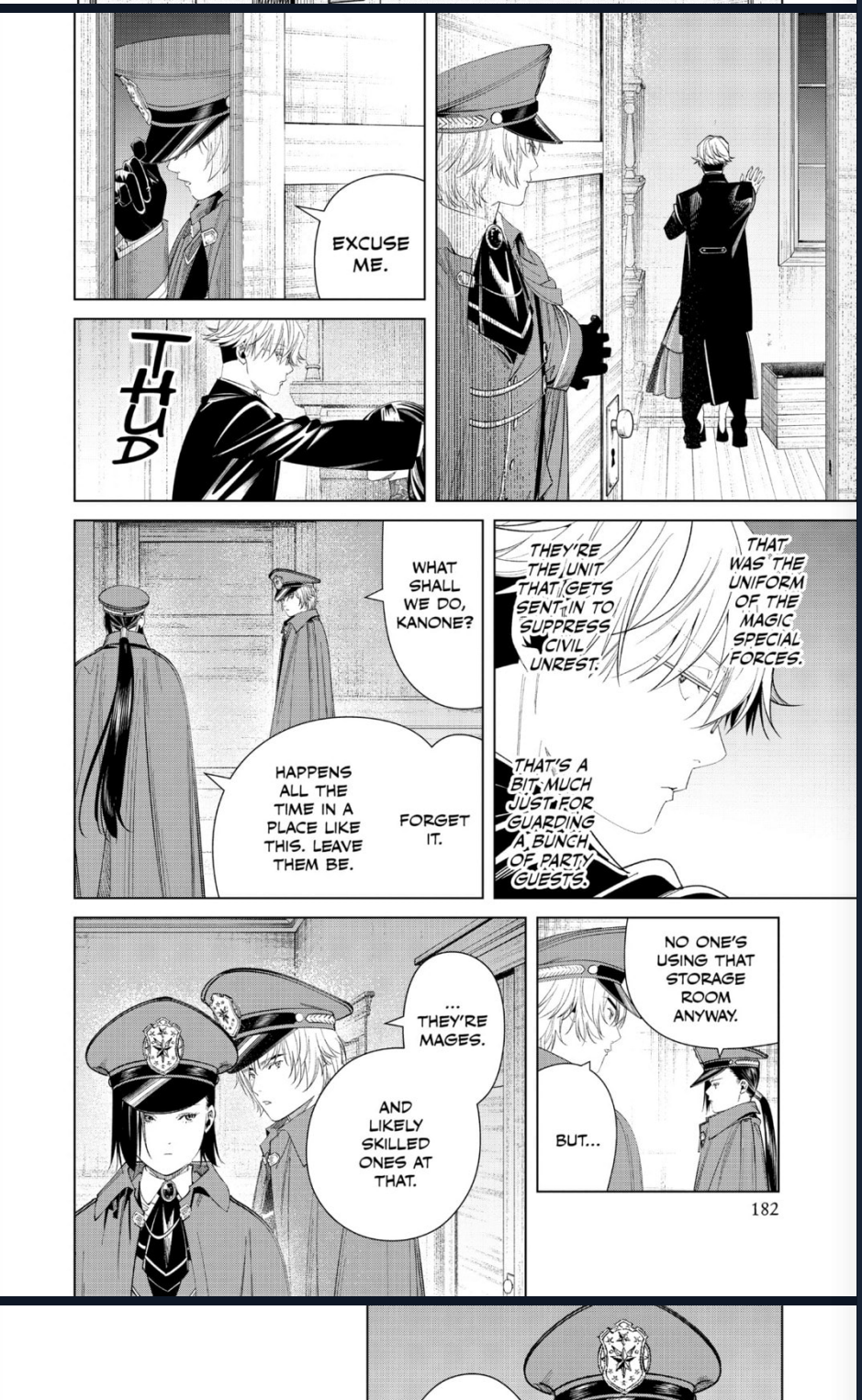

Don't.
Let's just escape out the window.
BUZZ
Heh...
Strong, you say?
They're quite strong.
Why do you seem happy about that?
I can leave you here and run...
Huh?
What's that for?
No, that's no good. The difference in strength between us and them is more than I imagined.
I can't leave her alone.
KRIK


Excuse me.
THUD
That was the uniform of the Magic Special Forces.
They're the unit that gets sent in to suppress civil unrest.
That's a bit much just for guarding a bunch of party guests.
What shall we do, Kanone?
Forget it.
Happens all the time in a place like this. Leave them be.
No one's using that storage room anyway.
But...
...they're mages.
And likely skilled ones at that.
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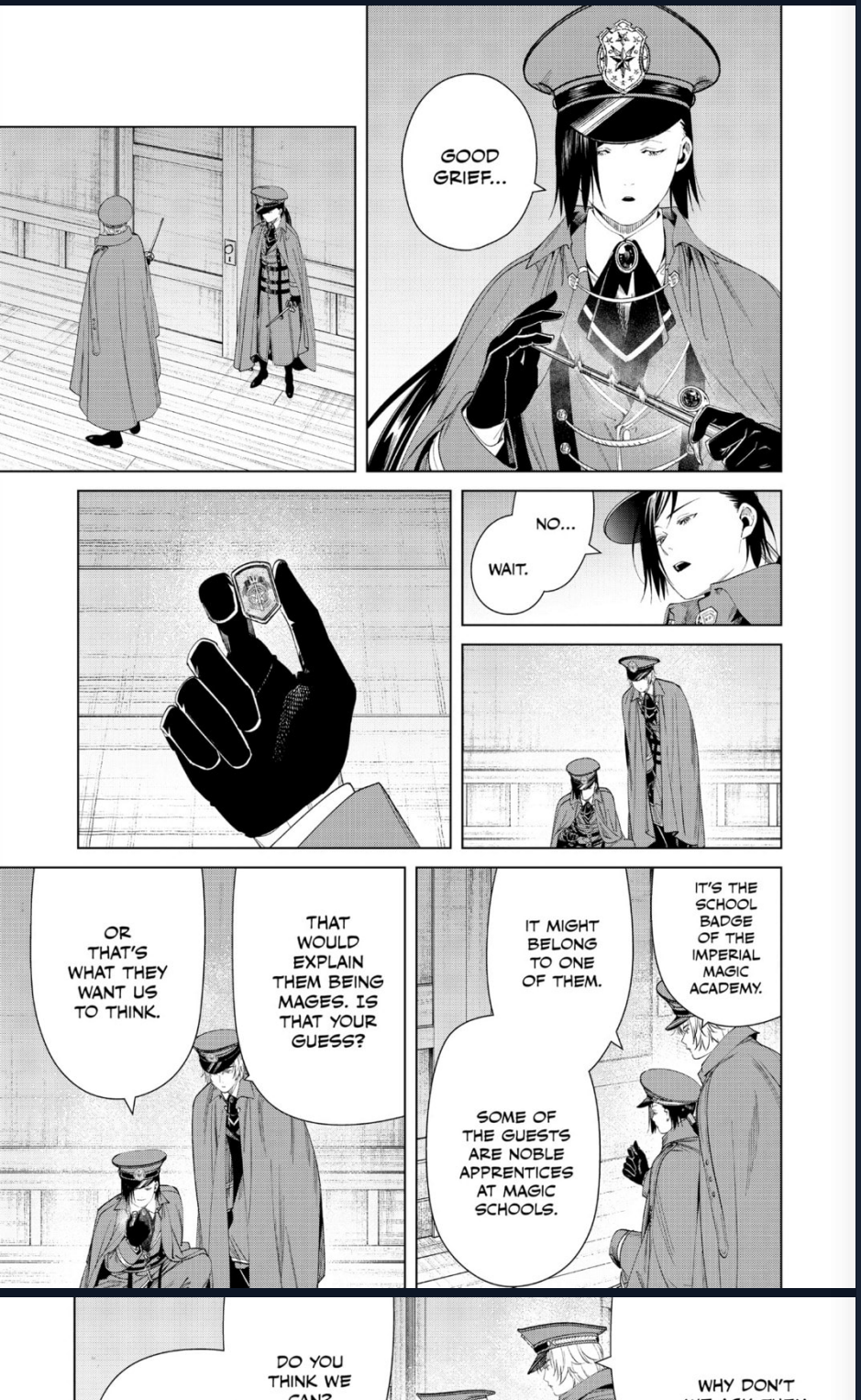
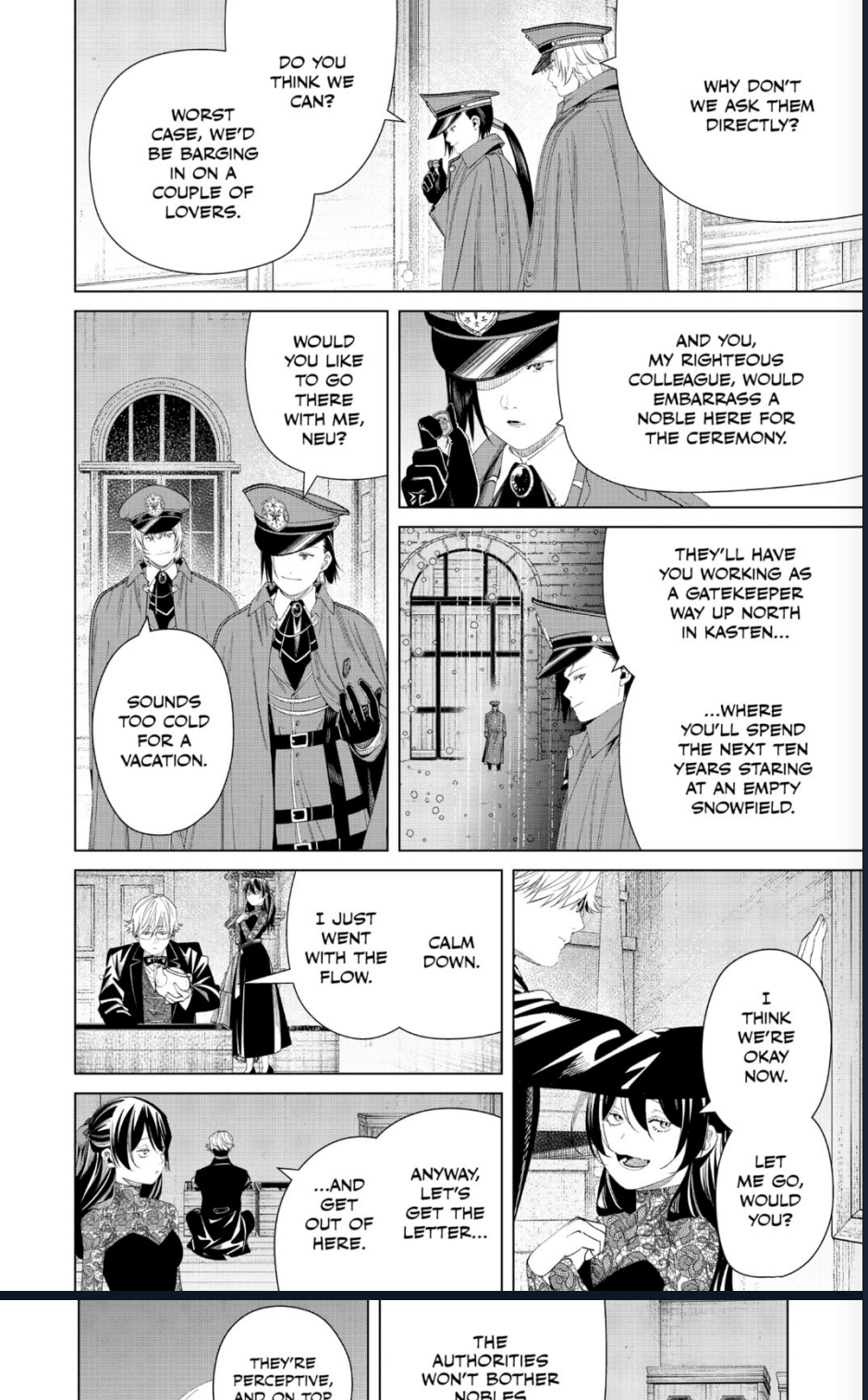
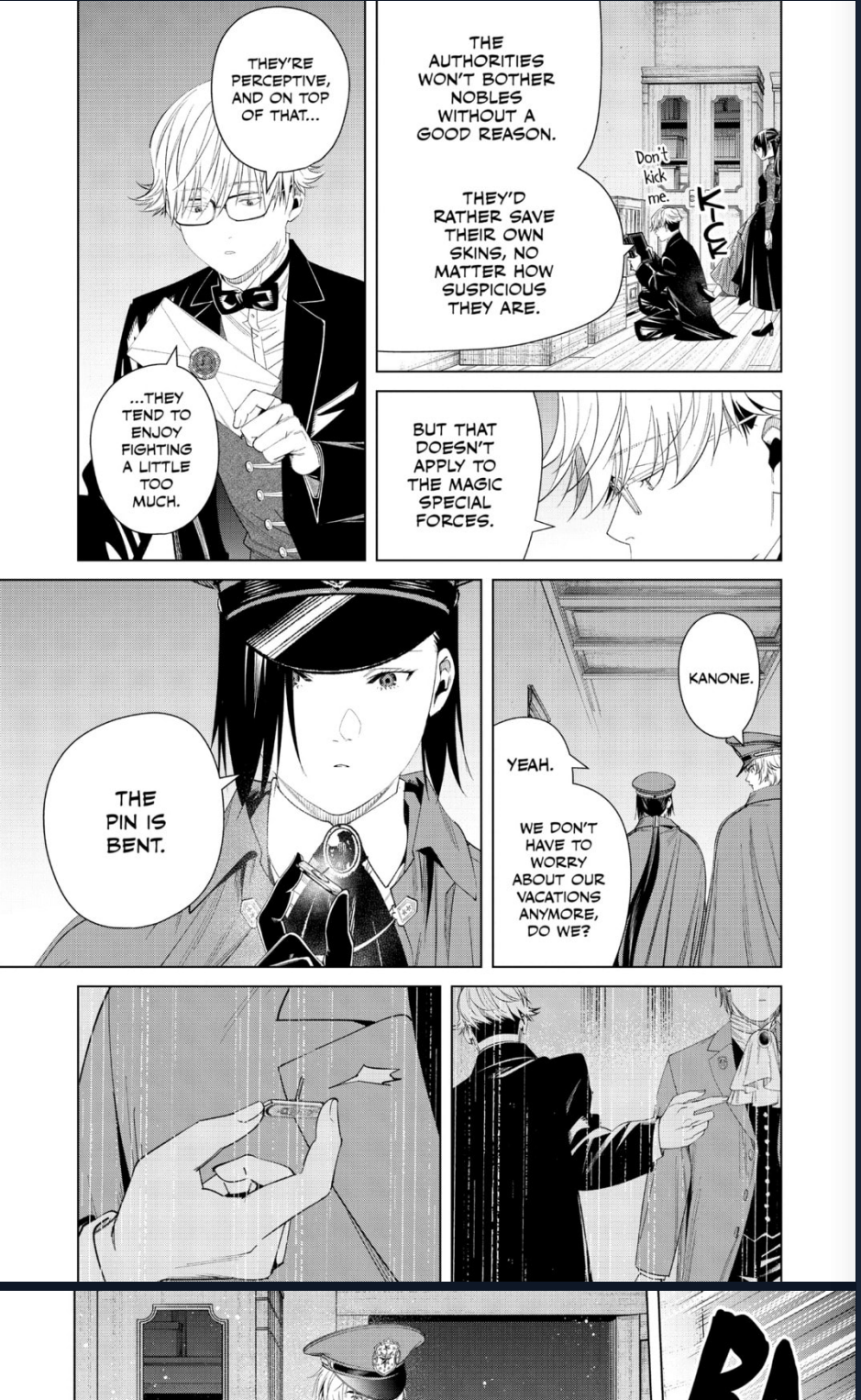
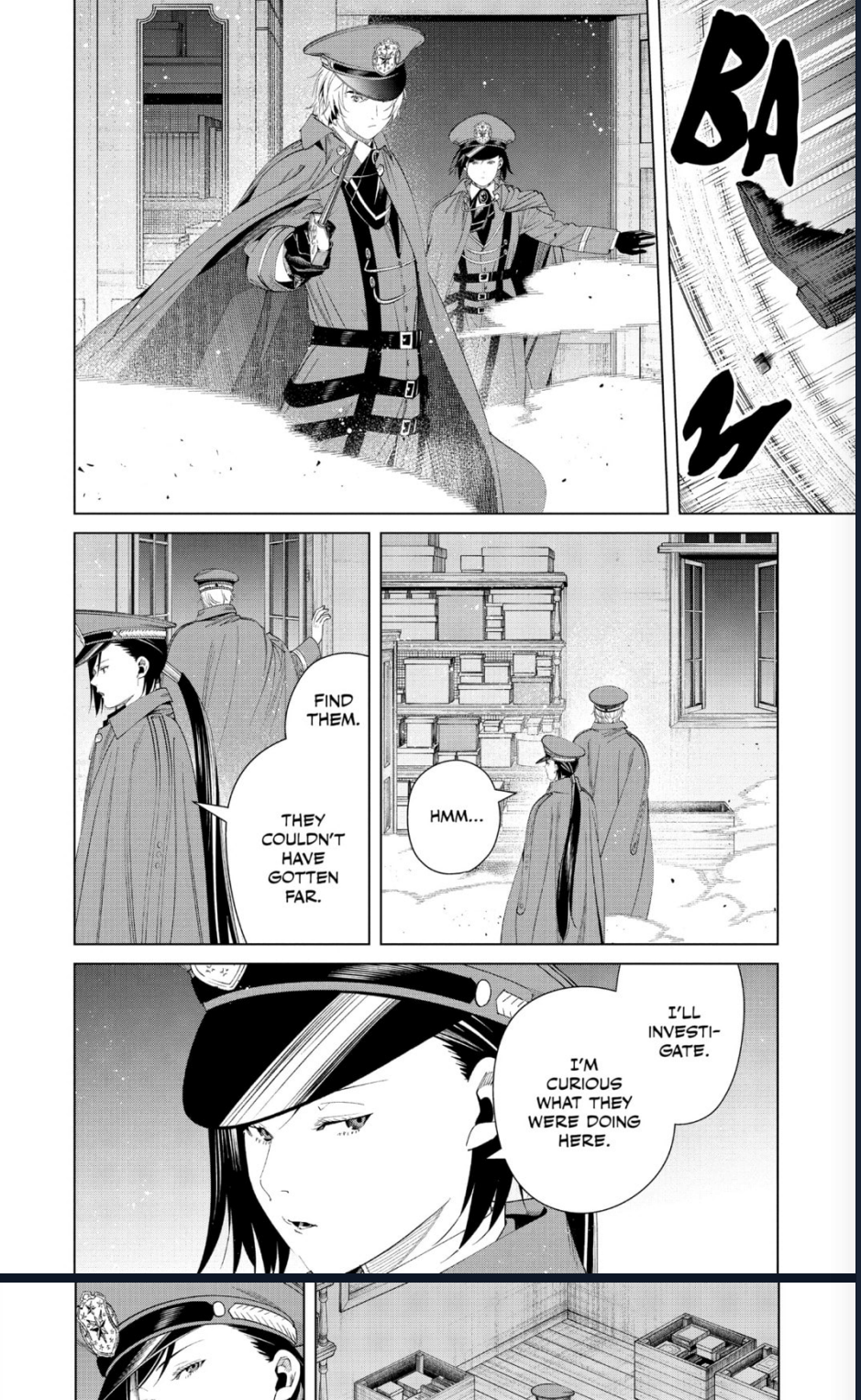
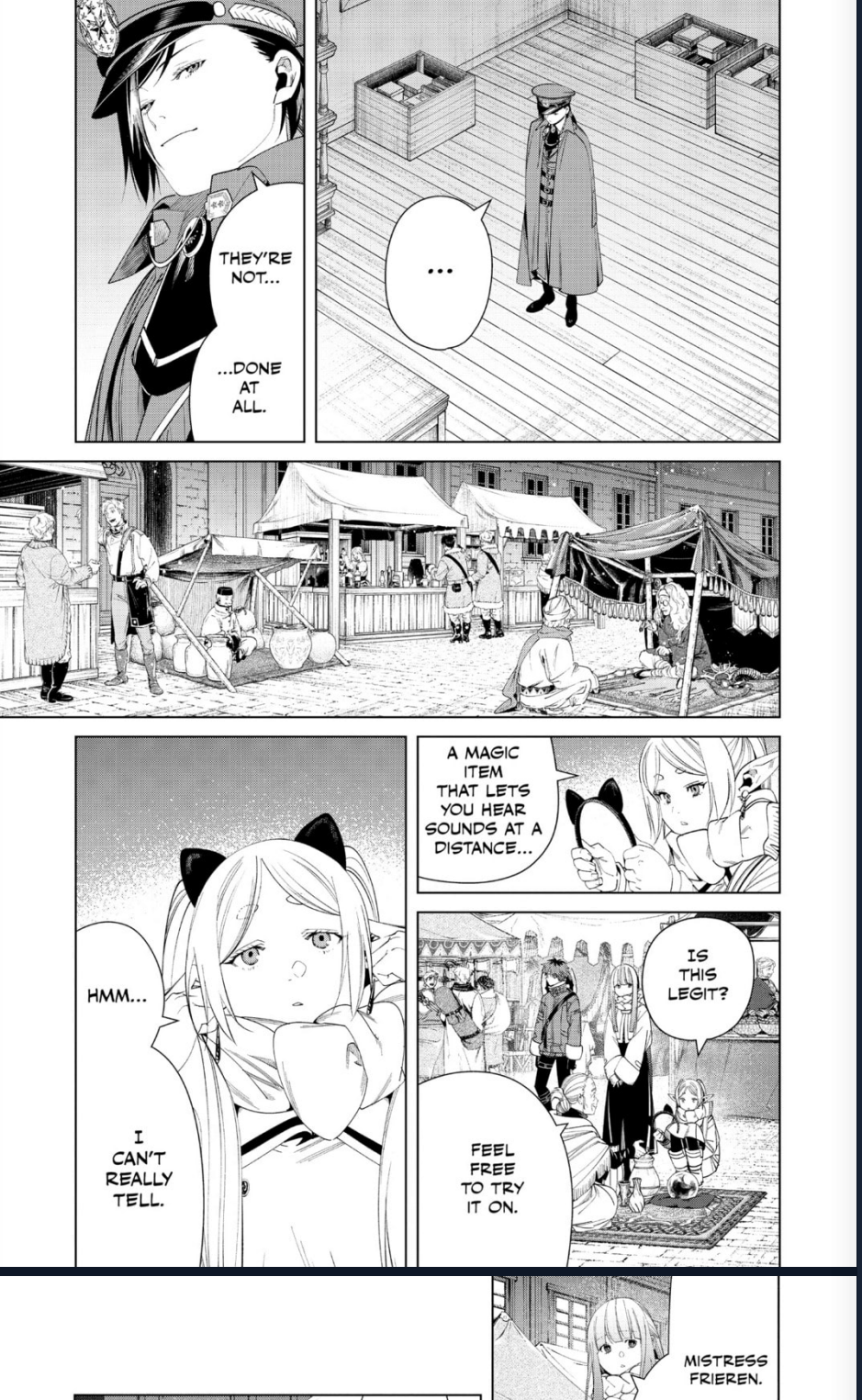
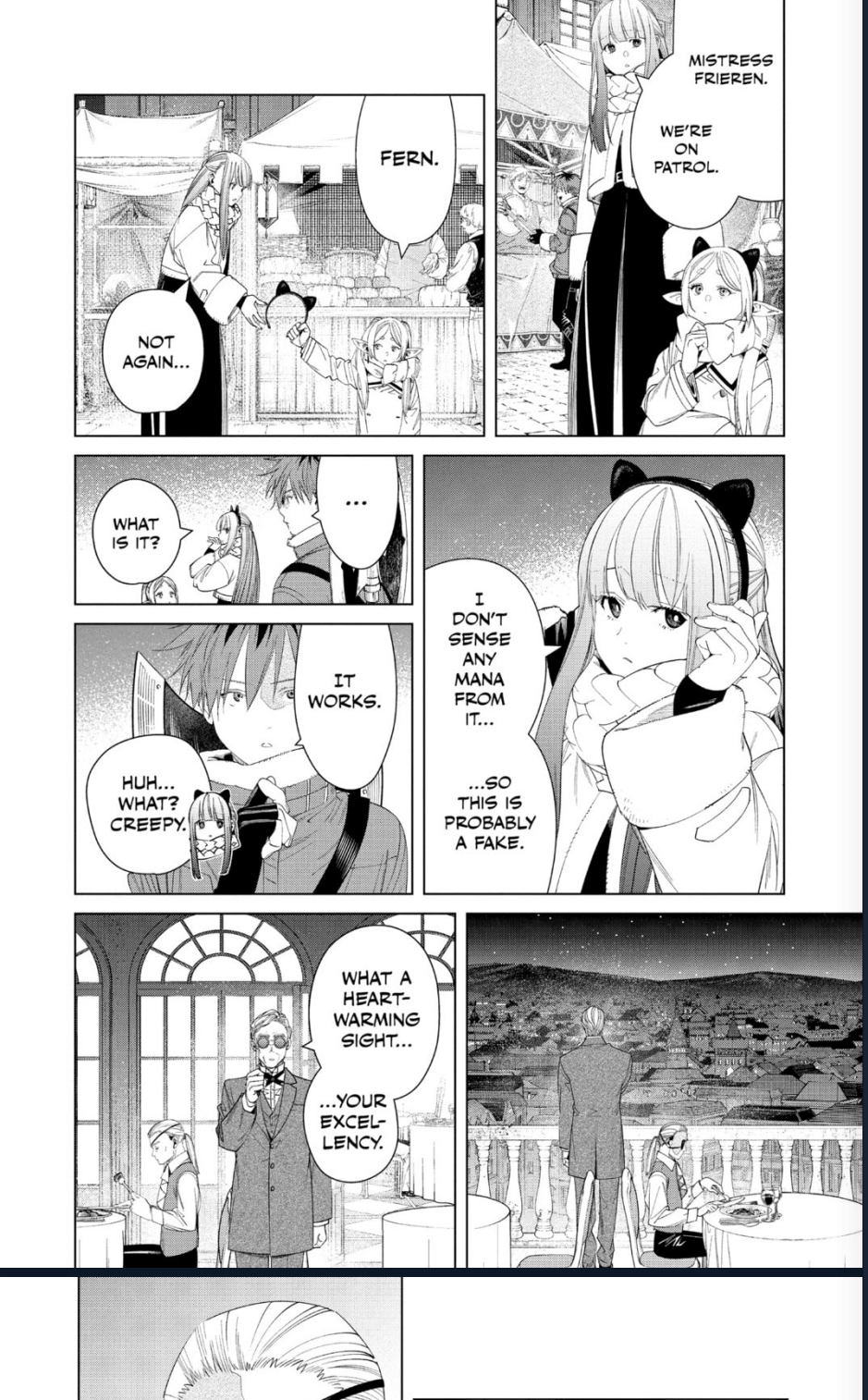

Good grief...
No...
Wait.
It's the school badge of the Imperial Magic Academy.
It might belong to one of them.
Some of the guests are noble apprentices at magic schools.
That would explain them being mages. Is that your guess?
Or that's what they want us to think.

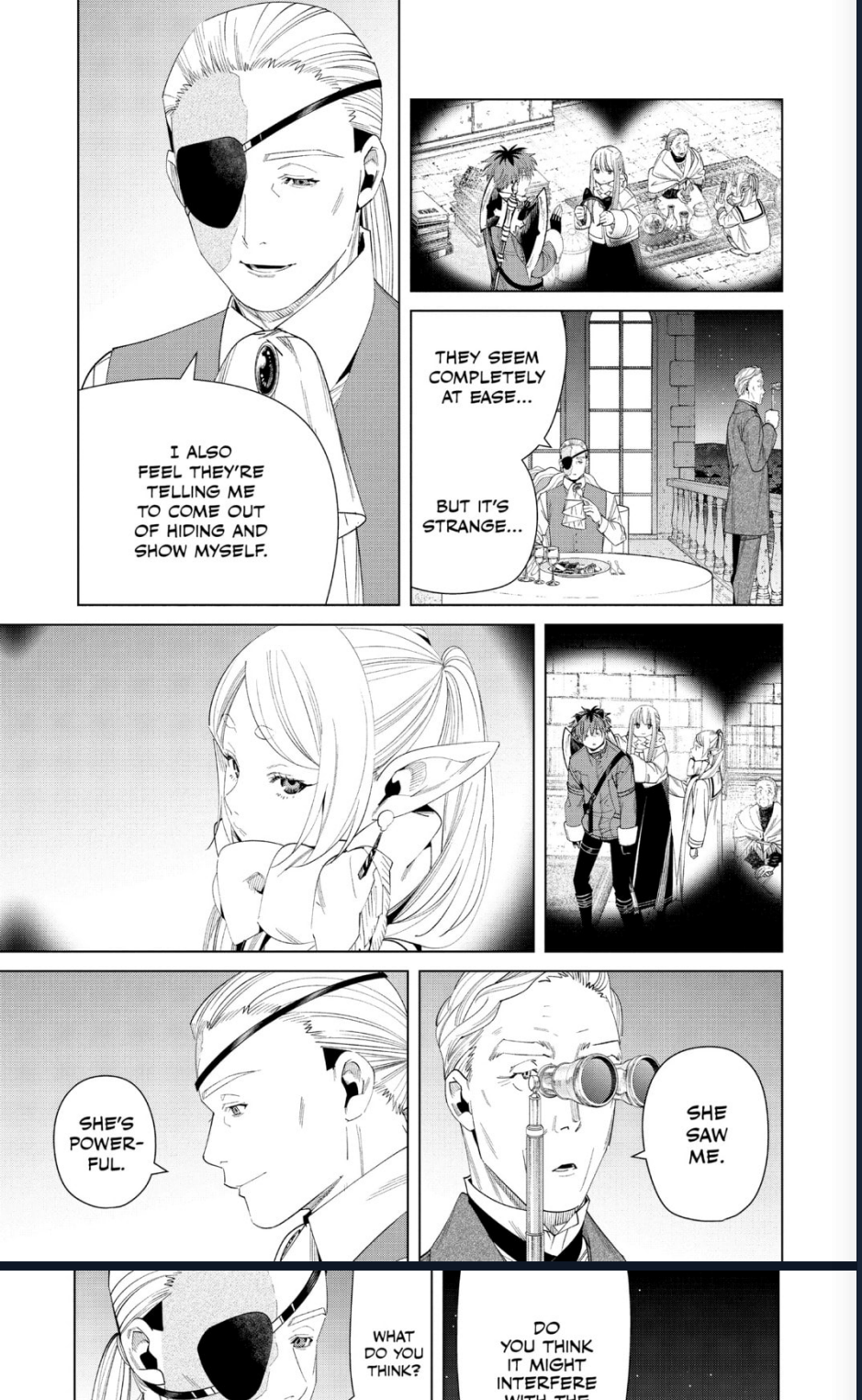

Why don't we ask them directly?
Do you think we can?
Worst case, we'd be barging in on a couple of lovers.
And you, my righteous colleague, would embarrass a noble here for the ceremony.
Would you like to go there with me, Neu?
They'll have you working as a gatekeeper way up north in Kasten...
...where you'll spend the next ten years staring at an empty snowfield.
Sounds too cold for a vacation.
I think we're okay now.
Let me go, would you?
Calm down.
I just went with the flow.
Anyway, let's get the letter...
...and get out of here.

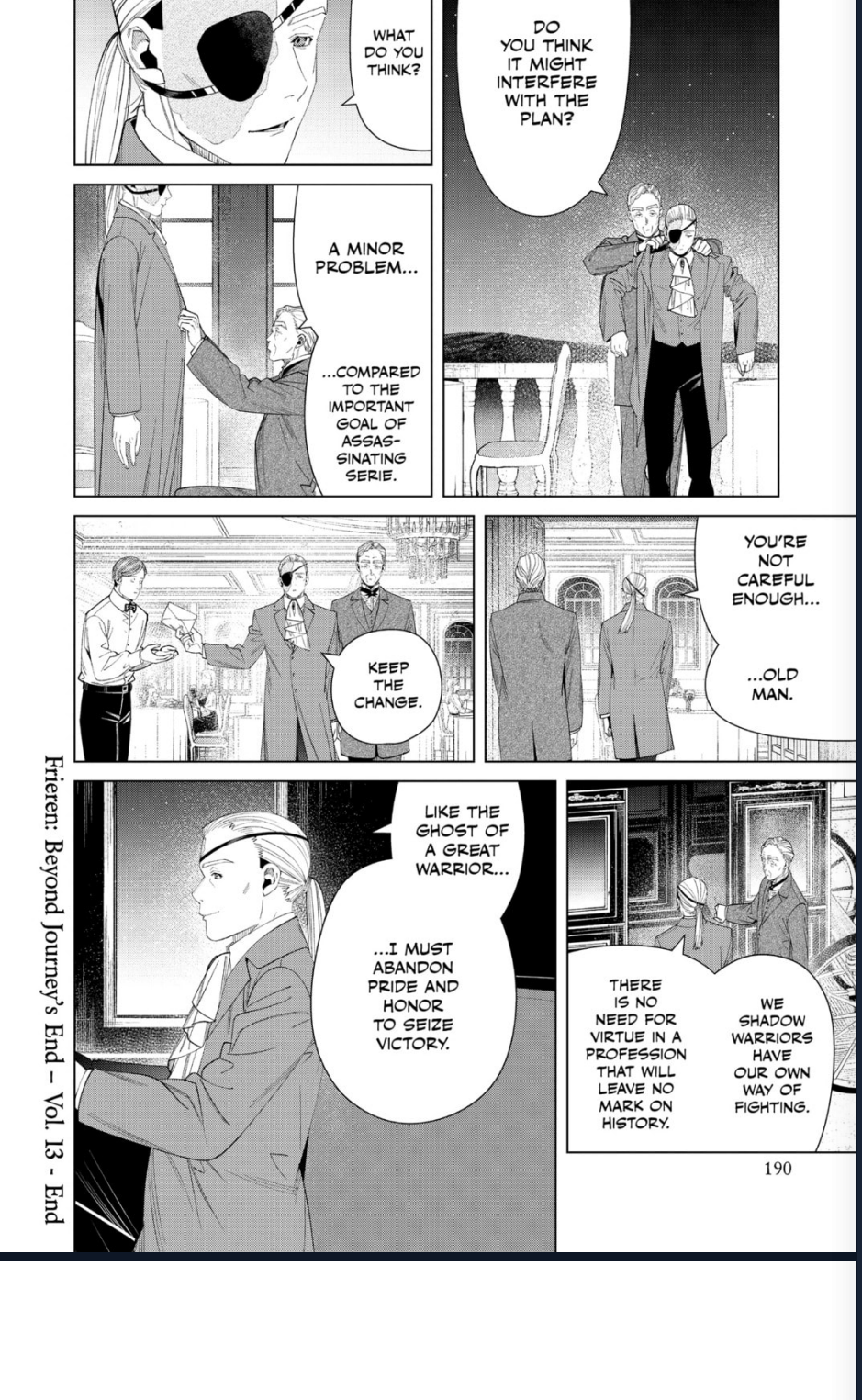

The authorities won't bother nobles without a good reason.
They'd rather save their own skins, no matter how suspicious they are.
Don't kick me.
KICK
They're perceptive, and on top of that...
But that doesn't apply to the Magic Special Forces.
...they tend to enjoy fighting a little too much.
Kanone.
Yeah.
We don't have to worry about our vacations anymore, do we?
The pin is bent.


BAM
Find them.
They couldn't have gotten far.
Hmm...
I'll investigate.
I'm curious what they were doing here.


...
They're not...
...done at all.
A magic item that lets you hear sounds at a distance...
Is this legit?
Hmm...
I can't really tell.
Feel free to try it on.


Mistress Frieren.
We're on patrol.
Fern.
Not again...
I don't sense any mana from it...
...so this is probably a fake.
...
What is it?
It works.
Huh... what? Creepy.
What a heartwarming sight...
...your excellency.


They seem completely at ease...
But it's strange...
I also feel they're telling me to come out of hiding and show myself.
She saw me.
She's powerful.


Do you think it might interfere with the plan?
What do you think?
A minor problem...
...compared to the important goal of assassinating Serie.
You're not careful enough...
...old man.
Keep the change.
Like the ghost of a great warrior...
...I must abandon pride and honor to seize victory.
We shadow warriors have our own way of fighting.
There is no need for virtue in a profession that will leave no mark on history.
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Frieren: Beyond Journey's End – Vol. 13 - End

Frieren: Beyond Journey's End
VOLUME 13
Shonen Sunday Edition

STORY BY
KANEHITO YAMADA

ART BY
TSUKASA ABE

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